

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Masayuki YAMAMOTO, et al

Filed: on even date herewith

For: CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT APPARATUS AND METHOD

**CLAIM FOR PRIORITY**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

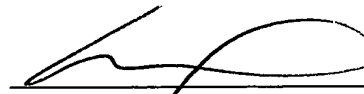
March 23, 2004

Sir:

Under the provisions of 35 USC §119 AND 37 CFR § 1.55, Applicants hereby claim the right of priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-426495 filed December 24, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

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